

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
April 25, 2001

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Susan Harper
Don Evans
Harry “Jay” Follman
Lee A. James
Duane Henderson
Richard Gilda
Brad Rosewood

Absent

Bill Hinkle
Sarah Spence
Grant Jensen
Laura L. Parsons
Alan J. Cabodi

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of March 28, 2001 Meeting Minutes
3. Local and Federal Legislative Update
4. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Meeting
5. Review and Discussion of Subcommittee Activities
6. Committee Communication
7. Strain Gages

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the sixth meeting of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety.
2. **Adoption of March 28, 2001 Meeting Minutes** – The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from the March 28 meeting without modifications.
3. **Local and Federal Legislative Update** – Doug Kilpatrick, with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), informed the committee on legislative activities at the federal and local levels. Locally, Doug reminded the committee that the pipeline safety bill had passed out of both houses unanimously and was headed to the Governor for his signature. Some modifications to the House bill were made and were adopted by the Senate. Those modifications included:

- a. An audit of the WUTC pipeline program will be conducted by July of 2003 by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC)
- b. The Citizens Committee shall act as an advisory committee to the WUTC and the agency will consult with and provide periodic reports to the committee.
- c. All members of the committee may participate fully in meetings and deliberations and shall receive all notices and information related to committee business.

To implement the legislation's fee authority, the WUTC will hold a public stakeholder meeting on May 17, 2001, from 9:00 – 12:00 in the WUTC hearing room. The rulemaking will establish the specifics on the dollar amount that pipeline companies will pay to fund the WUTC pipeline safety program.

The Committee discussed the possibility of sending a letter to the Governor urging him to support the legislation by signing the bill immediately. Members expressed various opinions about the necessity and impact of sending such a letter. Some members believed it would show support for the Governor's Office.

On the federal level, Doug informed the committee of two rulemakings affecting hazardous liquid pipeline operators. The first is entitled "Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas" (affecting operators with less than 500 miles of pipelines) Docket No. RSPA 00-7408 and the second is entitled "Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Accident Reporting Revisions" Docket No. RSPA 01-8663. Some committee members felt that they should comment on these rulemakings as a committee because the federal laws affect the State of Washington. The committee moved to refer the two federal rulemakings to the legislative committee in order to coordinate the comments of committee members. WUTC staff will work with the subcommittee to develop comments.

4. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Meeting** – Doug Kilpatrick spoke to the committee about a meeting to be held on April 26, 2001, in Seattle, sponsored by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Doug informed the committee that Steve Rieger with Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) and he would be participating in the meeting on a panel. Richard Gilda with the Citizens Committee would also be participating on a panel. The purpose of this public meeting is for FERC to gather input on siting of new natural gas pipelines and how their process can be made more efficient. Don Evans also indicated that he intended to attend as a citizen.
5. **Review and Discussion of Subcommittee Activities** – Chairman Chuck Mosher reviewed some of the work that the subcommittees have already done. The legislative committee met with legislators to encourage them to support the pipeline safety bill. The public relations (PR) committee put out a press release in January about the committee support of the pipeline safety bill. The PR subcommittee has talked about creating a newsletter to report on activities of the Citizens Committee.

Committee members suggested that the subcommittee's titles be re-visited and broken down into only three subcommittees because the committee as a whole is rather small to have numerous subcommittees.

Carole Washburn was asked her opinion by a committee member on where she felt the committee could focus their attention. Carole expressed that the issue of community-right-to-know is undefined and needs some policy attention. Carole also said that the committee should ask themselves the questions: What does the public need to know regarding pipeline and pipeline siting? What kind of information does the committee believe should be required for siting new pipelines. What and how much should the public know about pipelines in general?

Carole reminded members that at an early committee meeting, members expressed a desire to focus on areas where the group can truly make a difference.

Don Evans, Damage Prevention Subcommittee Lead, gave a short presentation of the current ideas developed by the Damage Prevention Subcommittee. Don and Richard Gilda have been planning a "Safety Week", which will be held in Whatcom County in October. The Safety Week will be funded by the industries that pay for the One-Call program. The week will focus on educating contractors and utility workers on the call before you dig locator system. (The attached outline describes the planned activities during the week.)

Don said that they would show educational videos and hand out educational information. Don will also be participating in a radio show promoting the call before you dig number and a print campaign in newspapers and contractor magazines will also occur. Chuck Mosher recommended that Don invite and talk to community leaders in Whatcom County. The PR committee said that they would like to do a press release to promote Safety Week. Don told the committee that the Whatcom county Safety Week is just the start to doing these types of meetings in other counties and cities.

A committee member and audience member suggested that while public education is critical to a successful damage prevention program, there are other issues that need attention as well. Enforcement of the present damage prevention laws and a cost effective means to address enforcement is an area that needs to be addressed. It was suggested that damage prevention should be looked at in four segments: 1) public education; 2) enforcement; 3) industry management processes; and 4) technology.

Chairman Chuck Mosher suggested that sub-committee chairs carefully define the goal of the sub-committee and specific objectives the committee is trying to meet. This will ensure success and clear expected outcomes.

6. **Committee Communication** – Committee members talked about establishing a process on how new initiatives/ideas are presented to the committee. It was suggested that a committee member talk to the subcommittee that the idea best fits under and present the

idea to that subcommittee. The subcommittee will work the idea out through discussion and planning and then present the idea/plan to the whole committee.

Discussion about non-voting members and endorsing comments, etc. The suggestion that a disclaimer should be added to notices stating the voting and non-voting process and how non-voting members are also pipeline industry representatives. If members disagree with the majority on the decision, committee members felt that the record should reflect the varying opinions.

7. **Strain Gages** – Lee James compiled a report on strain gages per Chairman Chuck Mosher's request. Strain gages pick up slow movement of earth, especially after an earthquake when the earth is unstable. In the state of Washington, Williams, PSE, and BP are using strain gages near their pipelines. Lee noted that the strain gages are not required by any federal or state law, but are good indicators of movement near the pipeline; they are more for the pipeline companies' benefit.

The committee meeting officially adjourned at 1:00 p.m. on April 25, 2001.